This is a particular one letter I have received from Allen since he went to Virginia last year.

Nov 15th 1864

Dearest companion & love of my youth, it is with pleasure that I take up my pen to inform you that I am in good health (except a small touch of the rheumatis) & hope these few lines may find you & darlings Emma & May enjoying all the blessings this unfriendly world can give. I fear you have never got any letters from me as I've never got any from you, time seems long but if I could only hear from you could get a letter every three or four weeks it would be different. & if you have never got any of my letters I fear that loving heart of mine is almost broken. I've written six letters since I've been in the mountains & yet no answer. O but I want to

hear from my kind & loving companion, the one that is nearest my heart, the loving Sade, that left kind parents, loving sisters, & brother to make me happy, dearest Sade, if my life & health is spared & I'm permitted to return to your kind embrace again, our happiest days are to come. I've always been to selfish & never knew how to appreciate the love of a kind & loving heart like yours, I've often slighted your love & wounded your poor heart by my selfishness. but I've studied human nature a goodeal since I left home. I was always negligent of my class & going to church. but when I come home I will be another man, O but this is a good lesson for me, the best one I ever learned, I'll know how to appreciate the love and

blessings of a kind family & cheerful home. I cannot lie down to sleep without asking our father in heaven to forgive me wherein I've sined against him during the day & to ask his blessing on my kind family, our dear old parents & frinds & foes. & that loving class to which I've belong, dearest companion do not forget that our names are recorded in that good little class at Christiansburgh. & pray that they are recorded in the lambs book of life. I would not give the love I have in my heart, & the prospects I have of getting to a better world, when done here below, for all the gold in Montana Territory & it would be millions upon millions. but enough on this subject. I think I have ~~enough~~ a chance of making something next summer, the winter is about setting in & we cant do much till spring. I was in hopes that I could

send you some of the precious metel this fall but I cannot. I have 3 claims that is 500 feet up & down the gulch & from summit to summit. & I think next summer I can make something & come home in the fall or winter. I have two partners Mr Lee & Mr George & Rawlings of St Louis & merchant in Silver City. they both have as much mining ground as I have. I am in his store now, while he is at virginia on business. he has been gone 9 days & will be back tomorrow I think. you will know that I am the same Dodd, here in the mountains that I was in the state when I tell you that Mr Rawlings & his partner Mr H. M. Ludlow is going to start to St Louis in two or three weeks & entrust me in their while they are gone. they will be gone three or four months. & will fetch on a large stock of goods & then I will go to mining. I get my board & ten per cent on all I sell that is ten dollars on every hundred. I will not make much this winter. some days not more than 50 cts & some days 15 to 20 dollars but it is a pleasant place & good house (one that I built for him) & I like it better than school teaching. Pleas dont tell any one what I am making if you please. you may tell what I am doing but dont want anyone but yourself to know what I am making. you will want to know about them rheumatism I spoke of in the commencement of my letter. I worked very hard in our drain ditch & shoveled out of it till it got 14 feet deep & strained my right wrist & it went to my shoulder & then between my shoulders where it now hurts me some. I can chop wood now to keep the store warm very well, but last week I could not chop a lick. I spend the nights alone in the store, do my own cooking & washing. but I do not do any of it without thinking of the sweet little hands that would be happy to do it for me, but I shall be content for there is a better day coming. I wish you to write as soon as you receive this & give me the news in full, write to our good neighbors in Ind & let them hear from me. give my love & best respects to our dear old parents & all inquiring friends. from your affectionate & loving husband until death. P. S. Morris to L. F. Morris & Emma & Mary their sweet little hearts

N. B. direct your letters to Silver City Silver Creek by way of virginia City Montana Ter"